

What species? Canada Goose-X-Lesser Snow Goose Hybr How many? OneLocation? Riverside Cemetary, Marshalltown, Marshall County, Iowa.Type of habitat? Man made pondWhen? date(s): October 06, 1993 time: 13:30 to 16:00Who? your name and address: Mike Stegmann, 1165 260th Street, Garwin, Iowa 50632others with you: Garry Brandenburg-Director Marshall County Conservation Boardothers before or after you: I am un aware of any other reports of this bird.

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

On October 06, 1993 while searching for a Canada Goose with an orange neck collar that had been reported to me, I noticed a Lesser Snow Goose (blue phase). It is not uncommon to see individuals of this species at this location in the fall with Canada Geese. This bird however showed abnormal plumage characteristics for the species which caused a closer examination. The bird was discovered with a flock of 1000-1500 Canada Geese that frequent the area from September thru March each year. The geese become quite tame and are fed daily by the public. They are so tame that they come close enough that I have been able to read the numbers of many leg bands over the years.

The bird in question, at a distance, has an appearance of an adult Blue Goose. Upon closer examination the characteristics of a Canada Goose become apparent. The bill is a light gray with the nail an off white. This contrasts the pink

Similar species and how eliminated:

Canada Goose and Snow Goose - show characteristics of both species.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? None I am aware of.

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Clear skies and full sunlight. A distance of 10 yards was stepped off. Tasco 7x35x50 zoom binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I have observed, hunted and collected both parent species over the past 20 years.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? Immediately this form completed? 40 days

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

bill of an adult and a dark gray bill of a juvenile Snow Goose. The area where the mandibles meet is black the entire length of the bill as is a small area around the nostrils and where the nail joins the bill. The feet and legs are light gray with a pink hue. The head is completely white with the exception of a few black feathers on the crown. The neck is white with black feathers ~~mottled throughout~~. The upper breast where joined to the neck is dark gray/brown and the lower breast and abdomen are white. The belly and under tail coverts are also white. The sides and flanks are light gray/brown. The back and scapulars are layered gray, brown and tan, similar to the coloration on the back of a Canada Goose. The tertials are dark brown from the shaft of the feather out half way at which point they change to white to the outer edge of the feather. The tail is a dark brown to charcoal color. The eye is dark brown. When the bird opened its wings to stretch notes were made and the best description is that they are like those of a Blue Goose.

The bird vocalize and the sound lacks the two stage ka-whonk of a Canada Goose and is much lower in pitch than the bark of a Snow Goose. An attempt was made to record the vocalizations by myself and Dr. Jill Trainer - Department of Biology, University of Northern Iowa, but this attempt was unsuccessful. The photos included were taken by Garry Brandenburg Director MCCB.

The bird was present through mid November at which time sightings ceased.

Hope this report is not too late. I just heard the deadline on the bird list this Monday.

A black and white photo is available. Phone me at (515) 499-2548 eve.

Mike